Prehistory Caption 1- Great Rift Valley

According to the Our World textbook, the Great Rift Valley is a two million year old valley formed by the Great East African Rift. It is a hot valley mainly in Tanzania. It has some Savanna shrubbery and trees, along with lots of sand and rocks. The Great Rift Valley used to be an old lakebed. Archaeologists found sharpened stone tools, probably for hunting and cutting food. These helped the early man that originated there hunt the herds that moved through the Savanna. The tools also had fine, sharp edges for cutting through animal hides and wood easily to make clothes and add to shelters with cut wood. This site shows how the very early humans adapted to the valley, [by using tools].

Prehistory Caption 2- Blombos Cave

According to the Our World textbook, Blombos Cave was occupied by early man as early as about 70,000 years ago. Blombos Cave is a cave in a rocky cliff-side on the coast of Still Bay, on the southern coast of South Africa. According to the National Geographic “People Like Us” article, then people of Blombos Cave relied mainly on fish. Living on the coast, the early men had to eat lots of fish because it was one of the only foods available. The people may have eaten some coastal vegetation also. According to “People Like Us”, some tools found in Blombos Cave were bone and stone hunting tools, mainly spearheads and awls. These tools could have been used for hunting the fish. The people of Blombos cave also had a sense of fashion. According to “People Like Us”, Archaeologists found strips of leather and possible jewelry in the cave. This site shows how VERY early coastal people could have lived.

Prehistory Caption 3- Border Cave

According to the Our World textbook, the Border Cave was occupied by humans at about 40,000 years ago. Border Cave is located on the side of a ridge in South Africa, looking over a grassy plain [Swaziland]. There is a long opening in the ridge that revealed the cave. According to Our World, the people of the Border Cave lived off of the antelope herds that migrated and grazed in the valley below. They also lived off the shrubbery and grasses of the valley, such as buffalo thorn trees. Archaeologists found tools for hunting in the Border Cave, such as spearheads for spears, to hunt. Archaeologists also found ancient plant fossils that show that the early humans of the Border Cave used certain plants for pharmaceutical purposes, such as medicines. This site shows how early humans used geographical advantages and tools to survive.

Prehistory Caption 4-Mezhirich, Ukraine-

According to the National Geographic article, “People Like Us”, The site at Mezhirich was a small village of prehistoric huts. The people of the little village were expert and experienced hunters. They hunted herds of game to live off of. One animal they hunted was the Wooly Mammoth. They used the killed mammoth’s tusks and bones to build tools and huts. The people also had means for refrigerating the meat that they hunted. They dug pits into the ground and put ice in them to naturally refrigerate their meat. This kept the meat fresh. This important archaeological site shows how the early people of the world hunted and used their new resources to help them in daily life.

Prehistory Caption 5- Towns of Dolini Vestonice and Pavlov, Czech Republic-

According to the National Geographic article “People Like Us”, These two towns were a small prehistoric village back tens of thousands of years ago. The people here had a good sense of making and using resources for everyday useful items. Before a fire raged out, the site was a group of small prehistoric hide huts. After the fire, thousands of years later, archaeologists found clay fossilized pots, textiles, cords, baskets, and nets. These fossils showed that these people had the skill to make nets and weave. The early people could have very well used nets to surprise and catch game and prey. These people definitely had skill in weaving, which can lead to a better community, because they could easily make containers and clothes. This site show us how a basic skill can lead to a gateway to better opportunities, and overall, a better life in a community.

Prehistory Caption 6- Gulf of Zulu-

According to “The Real Eve”, The Gulf of Zulu is located in the country of Eritrea, eastern Africa. The gulf is located on the coast. The areas where tools and remains were found were full of rocky ledges and small beachheads. The people of the gulf lived off of their “harvest” from the sea. That “harvest”, consisted of fish, oysters, and clams. They may have used the clam and oyster shells for tools [cutting tools or jewelry]. Archaeologists found stone tools, like choppers, and spearheads, for catching fish. In the epic journey of man, early humans wanted to get out of the deserts of Africa, and into more fertile and tropical climates. One era of that journey is when some people from Africa went to the east coast of Africa, wanting to cross the small Red Sea, into Saudia Arabia and Yemen. It was a gateway to a new world for the people of the world. This site shows the part of the journey where early man flocked to the coast. This site shows how people survived on the coast, and used their seaside resources to live.

Prehistory Caption 7- Kota Tampan-

According to “The Real Eve”, The site at Kota Tampan is located in a wooded valley on the island of Sumatra. Near the valley, 74,000 years ago, there was an epic volcanic explosion. This explosion caused lots of fertile, volcanic soil to scatter the ground. Harder and less fertile ash collected and formed rocks. Archaeologists found sophisticated stone tools, with specific purposes, at the site. Since the valley was wooded and tropical, there were bound to be many animals and plants to consume. These specific tools helped the early men collect and hunt all of those many food sources. These tools were made from volcanic material. This site shows how certain geographical changes or advantages can give man more resources to hunt and give him access to more tools.